



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : LUKAS HOWALD ET AL.  
Serial No. : 09/873,664  
Filed : June 4, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2853  
Examiner : B. Mouttet

Confirmation No.: 4255

Docket No. : 01-352  
Customer No. : 34704

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated August 26, 2003 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire November 26, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which beings on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.